

**Minutes of the Priston Parish Council Meeting held at Priston Village Hall on  
Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2016 at 7.00 pm**

**Draft - not approved as an accurate record of proceedings.**

**Present:** Cllrs Peter Hopwood (Chair), Claire Lawton, John Lippiatt, John Whybrow, David Veale (District Councillor) and Louise Callan (Clerk).

**1. Apologies:** Cllrs Doug Pattison, Fiona Hassard and Robert Davies

**2. Minutes of last meeting:** Taken as read, approved with amendments and signed.

**3. Chair's Report:**

3.1 The standing orders had been reviewed by all councillors and approved unchanged. Some changes had been made to the Financial Regulations (see 4.2) **Action: Clerk to file and add to website.**

3.2 A quote for £350 to replace the wooden part of the circular bench on the village green had been received. There was some discussion about the girth of the tree and the most appropriate material to use to repair/extend the size of the bench. **Action: Clerk to obtain further quotes for wooden and metal seats.**

**4. Clerk's Report:**

4.1 The bank balance was £7377.96 on 5 September 2016. The financial statement was presented and it was agreed that all invoices due before the next meeting (as listed on the attached report) should be paid.

4.2 The clerk now has access to online banking from NatWest. This could enable payments to be made electronically. A process for authorising online payments (outlined in para 11 of the Financial Regulations) was presented. The internal auditor had previously agreed that this was acceptable. Claire Lippiatt proposed accepting the change, John Whybrow seconded it and the council agreed unanimously. **Action: Clerk to apply for device to generate access to online payments on banking website.**

4.3 The insurance has been renewed with Hiscox for one year.

4.4 There had been correspondence with the rider whose horse damaged the bench on the village green. As a result, she had agreed to pay the cost of the new bench (excluding VAT). Cllr Hopwood thanked the Clerk for obtaining an excellent outcome from the situation. Community newsletters had been received and distributed.

4.5 There was no update on funding for a Parish Council computer, but the clerk reported that the application had to be made on the ALCA website. **Action: Clerk to pursue and report back at next meeting.**

**5. Changes to the bus timetable:**

Information about the new and reduced bus timetable was presented to the meeting and it was noted that with tight budgets within BANES, services, if not used, may be reduced further. **Action: Clerk to find out more about actual usage.**

**6. Adopting the BT telephone kiosk:**

BT are running a consultation until November 28<sup>th</sup> regarding the removal of the payphones in telephone boxes that are rarely used. The council may adopt the box itself for £1 and would then be responsible for its maintenance. There was some concern that the removal of the phone would prevent people from making emergency calls for the use of the defibrillator. However, even if there is no reception for the subscriber's network mobiles will pick up any available network for emergency calls. Responses for the consultation must be channelled through BANES. It was agreed that if the phone is removed the council would adopt the box. In the meantime, investigations to be carried out to check that mobile phone coverage is adequate for emergency calls. **Action: John Wilkinson to look into emergency calls from mobiles and report back to the clerk by October 31<sup>st</sup>.**

## 7. Allocation of budget for Village Design Statement:

Costs of £510 already committed to the Village Design Statement were approved.

## 8. Bund and Tree Planting at Newton St Loe:

The requirements of the planning permission to create a bund and plant trees to screen new farm sheds at Newton St Loe have not been fulfilled. Cllr Veale has reported the issue to Building Control at BANES and the enforcement officer has agreed to follow up and report back on the situation. **Action: David Veale to report on progress at the next meeting.**

## 9. Wild Flower Meadows between Priston and Timsbury:

Nothing further had been heard regarding an earlier request to support an application for a grant to maintain several meadows as wild flower areas. **Action: John Lippiatt to contact Stephen Jones to say that the council was open to offering some support (non-financial) once more specific details have been provided.**

## 10. Feedback on New Residents' Pack:

There was no specific feedback. Fiona Hassard and Louise Callan were thanked for their input in producing the document. **Action: Clerk to add some missing information and give to the recent new residents.**

## 11. Roads and Highways:

BANES carried out a substantial amount of work to repair and improve the drainage by Pressbarrow Farm Dairy on Farmborough Lane. A new drainage pipe is still required to run across the field opposite to reduce the risk of the road flooding. Cllr Veale has been in negotiation with BANES to obtain the funding to buy the pipe, although the money has not yet been forthcoming. The local farmers are still offering to install the pipe, which could cost around £7k if carried out by a commercial company. **Action: John Lippiatt to continue to liaise with David Veale. Clerk to write to David Veale confirming the use of the road and explain the dangers of flooding in that area.**

**12. Defibrillators:** All in working order. Training has been scheduled for 26<sup>th</sup> October. **Action: John Wilkinson to notify villagers.**

**13. Footpaths and Bridleways:** The report was accepted.

**14. Planning Applications:** None.

## 15. External meetings:

Future meetings:

ALCA:	14 <sup>th</sup> September (CL and LC)	18 <sup>th</sup> January
Parishes Liaison:	12 <sup>th</sup> October (RD)	15 <sup>th</sup> February
Bathavon Forum,	5 <sup>th</sup> October, (TBC)	28 <sup>th</sup> November

**Action: Clerk to circulate dates to all councillors.**

**16. Any other Business:** A resident had been in contact to question whether development of one of the houses in Priston was within permitted development rights. It was noted that the resident should contact BANES directly, either by phone, in person or by email to ask for guidance from Building Control. **Action: Claire Lawton to inform the resident.**

<http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/planning-and-building-control/planning-enforcement>

**17. Date of next meeting:** Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November.